

Minutes
Arkansas State Board of Optometry
Regular Board Meeting
June 18, 2020

Dr. Bryant Ashley, Board President, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. with all board members present. Also in attendance were Dr. Howard Flippin, Board Executive Director; Ms. Bonita Wineman, Board Assistant; Mr. Kevin O'Dwyer, Board Attorney; Mr. Matt Gilmore, AR Department of Health; Ms. Lacey Kirchner, Attorney General Counsel; Debbie Henley, ArOA Executive Assistant; Dr. Allison Hall, ArOA.

Dr. Ashley presented the minutes of the April 23, 2020 Board meeting done by conference call. Dr. Ginger made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Dr. Ford made a second. The motion passed.

Dr. Flippin presented the Accounting Update Report dated June 15, 2020. He reported that Board funds had been transferred to the State Treasury.

Mr. White made a motion to accept the financial report. Mr. Gentry made a second. The motion passed.

Dr. Ashley spoke about Continuing Education and informed the Board that COPE has extended its decision to allow live virtual continuing education for credit through December 31, 2020.

Dr. Hennessey made a motion that the Board allow COPE approved live virtual continuing education for license renewal CE hours through December 31, 2020. Dr. Ginger made a second. The motion passed.

Dr. Ashley opened discussion on genetic testing. After some discussion the topic was tabled.

Dr. Ashley recognized new board member Dr. Beatrice Reed.

Dr. Flippin presented a letter from Dr. Bradley Diner, Medical Director of the Arkansas Medical Foundation. The letter stated Dr. Derrick Pierce still has the advocacy of the Foundation. Dr. Pierce's contract with the Foundation expires July 6, 2020.

Dr. Ashley presented Dr. Douglas Jordan of Missouri for endorsement. Dr. Flippin reported that Dr. Jordan had met all requirements for endorsement.

Dr. Hennessey made a motion that Dr. Jordan be licensed by endorsement. Dr. Ford made a second. The motion passed.

Dr. Ford presented a handout on telemedicine platforms. After discussion of the pros and cons of telehealth the Board asked Drs. Hennessey and Ford to research the topic and develop an outline for teleoptometry rules and regulations.

Dr. Ashley and Dr. Flippin reported on new complaints regarding 1-800-CONTACTS. Mr. O'Dwyer will take the information to the Attorney General.

Dr. Ashley reported that it was time for election of officers for the Board.

Dr. Hennessey made a motion that the new slate of officers be Dr. Ashley, President; Dr. Ginger, Vice-President; and Dr. Hennessey, Secretary/Treasurer. Mr. Gentry made a second. The motion passed.

Drs. Flippin and Ashley reported that their meeting with the Attorney General went well. Dr. Ashley introduced Ms. Lacey Kirchner as the attorney appointed by the attorney general's office to serve as Board Attorney after a transition period during which time Mr. O'Dwyer will remain Board Attorney.

Dr. Flippin and Ms. Wineman are retiring in October 2020. Mr. Gilmore reminded us that there is a hiring freeze in effect at this time.

Dr. Dusty McIver failed to renew his Arkansas license in February 2019 after moving out-of-state. He has decided to return to Arkansas and asked what his options were for re-licensure. He will not be eligible for licensure by endorsement for another year. His only current option is to take the State Board Examination in February 2021.

Dr. Ginger made a motion that we should not make an exception to licensing requirements for Dr. McIver. Mr. White made a second. The motion passed.

Dr. Hennessey made a motion that per diem and mileage be paid to board members. Dr. Ford made a second. The motion passed.

The next Board meeting will be August 13 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 445 of the Victory Building.

Dr. Ginger made a motion to adjourn. Dr. Ford made a second. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Dr. Bryant Ashley, President

Dr. Dan Hennessey, Secretary/Treasurer